

Testimony HB 6375
March 16, 2009
Governmental Administration and Election Committee

My name is Neil Griffin. I am the Executive Director of the Glastonbury Housing Authority and an Executive Board Member for the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (Conn-NAHRO).

I come before the committee today to speak about HB 6375's proposed elimination of the Housing Sustainability Fund, found at line 88, item 41 of the bill. The Housing Sustainability Fund was the first step at preserving the over 17,400 state funded low and moderate income rental homes. I say homes because these are people's homes and not just a "unit" or piece of rental inventory.

The population served by this housing portfolio, in Glastonbury as in other communities, is largely below 25% of median income. The average rent is below \$400 per month and the properties receive no subsidy. While in comparison Glastonbury's assisted living property which serves the same income group, has a monthly rent of \$989 which includes a monthly rental subsidy of \$614. The bottom line is that the State funded properties can not continue to provide affordable rents to the population it serves *and* be able to fund these extensive capital needs.

I do not see how the elimination of the Housing Sustainability Fund could be seen as a reasonable measure that would help mitigate the State's deficit. Simply not budgeting any money for the fund during this extraordinarily difficult budgeting session could accomplish the same and still preserve an integral part of the preservation effort for our state funded low and moderate income housing, the Housing Sustainability Fund.

I urge you to leave the Housing Sustainability fund in place and in effect continue your support towards preserving our low and moderate income housing in Connecticut.